

(10) provides adequate and timely payments in order to guarantee access to providers;

(11) fosters a strong network of health care facilities, including safety net providers;

(12) ensures continuity of coverage and continuity of care;

(13) maximizes consumer choice of health care providers and practitioners; and

(14) is easy for patients, providers and practitioners to use and reduces paperwork.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I submit this measure today to call attention to one of the most serious injustices in our country. 42 million Americans lack access to quality, affordable health care because they have no health insurance. Most of these Americans work in full-time jobs, but still cannot afford the high cost of health care. As a result, hospital emergency rooms are their only doctor. They face impossible choices in paying for the medicine they need on top of paying the rent, or putting food on the table. As a result, they die younger. Yet, the richest and most powerful Nation in the world looks the other way.

For half a century, the United States has led the world in scientific and medical advances. We have more Nobel Prize winners in medicine than any other Nation. We were the first to successfully decode the entire human genome. And yet, we cannot see that every American child gets vaccinated against deadly and disabling diseases. We fail to guarantee that all Americans can obtain the medical treatments that could save their lives.

Every year, 8 million uninsured Americans fail to take their medications because they can't afford to pay for their prescriptions. 300,000 children with asthma never get treated by a doctor. Uninsured women diagnosed with breast cancer are 50 percent more likely to die from the disease, because their cancer is diagnosed too late. 32,000 Americans with heart disease go without life-saving bypass surgery or other treatments.

And the problem is getting worse. For most of the past 16 years, the number of people without health insurance has increased. Now, when our economy is weak, health care costs are rising at double-digit rates. People are losing jobs and their health insurance too. States are cutting back on Medicaid care for the poor. If we do nothing, the number of uninsured could reach more than 52 million by 2010. Clearly, the time to act is now.

We must pass legislation to ensure that every man, woman, and child in the United States has access to high quality, affordable health care. And we must do it soon.

Some say we cannot afford the cost of covering the uninsured. But as a country, we are already paying the much higher costs of failing to provide good care for all. We pay for it when we fail to detect cancer early by using the preventive screening that we know is effective. We pay for it in every person with diabetes who becomes blind because of a disease we know how to con-

trol. We pay for it by failing to give every child the same opportunity for good health and a productive life.

We know that the battle for affordable health care has never been easy. But to solve this problem, we must commit to working together to find a solution. That is why I am submitting this resolution. This measure does not endorse a specific plan to cover the uninsured, but it does state unequivocally that universal health care is our goal, and it sets a time for Congress to get the job done.

A similar resolution has already been submitted in the House of Representatives and has received the strong support of our 470 organizations, including many groups representing patients, health providers, and faith-based organizations.

Democrats are leading the charge in Congress in the fight for quality health care for all Americans—and, as Congressman GEPHARDT has shown with his recent proposal, Democrats are prepared to take this issue to the White House as well.

I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this resolution to enact bipartisan legislation to provide health care for all Americans by the end of the year 2005. Perhaps we can do it earlier, but at least we are setting a realistic goal—the end of the first session of the Congress elected in 2004. The time is long overdue for the United States of America to join the rest of the industrial world in recognizing this fundamental right.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED & PROPOSED

SA 532. Mr. ALLEN (for himself, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. MCCAIN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 196, to establish a digital and wireless network technology program, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 532. Mr. ALLEN (for himself, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. MCCAIN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 196, to establish a digital and wireless network technology program, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 2, strike lines 2 and 3, and insert the following:

This Act may be cited as the "Minority Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Act of 2003".

On page 2, line 6, insert "Minority Serving Institution" before "Digital".

On page 2, line 7, strike "Network".

On page 3, strike lines 1 through 5, and insert the following:

(2) to develop and provide educational services, including faculty development, related to science, mathematics, engineering, or technology;

On page 3, line 18, after "development" insert "in science, mathematics, engineering, or technology".

On page 4, line 18, after "accept" insert "and review".

On page 4, line 24, strike "section 3." and insert "section 3, and for reviewing and evaluating proposals submitted to the program."

On page 5, line 7, after "issues," insert "Any panel assembled to review a proposal submitted to the program shall include members from minority serving institutions. Program review criteria shall include consideration of—

(1) demonstrated need for assistance under this Act; and

(2) diversity among the types of institutions receiving assistance under this Act."

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Wednesday, April 30, 2003, at 9:30 a.m., on the Fire Research Act in SR-253.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 30, 2003, at 10 a.m., to consider comprehensive energy legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 30, 2003, at 10 a.m., to hold a business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 30, 2003, at 2:30 p.m., to hold a hearing on "U.S. Energy Security: Russia and the Caspian."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet on Wednesday, April 30, 2003, at 2 p.m., in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing on S. 519, the Native American Capital Formation and Economic Development Act of 2003.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a nominations hearing on Wednesday, April 30, 2003, at 10 a.m., in the Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226.

Panel I: [Senators].

Panel II: John G. Roberts, Jr., to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.